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Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 - 16 (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A flow cytometric method for measuring dendritic cell function in whole blood, comprising:

(a) contacting a whole blood sample with a dendritic cell activator;

(b) adding to said sample a plurality of dendritic cell-distinguishing antibodies and at least one antibody specific for a dendritic cell surface marker indicative of activation; and then

(c) flow cytometrically assaying said sample for the binding of said antibody specific for said dendritic cell surface activation marker by ~~at least one distinguishable DC subset~~ dendritic cells, wherein the binding of the dendritic cell-distinguishing antibodies identifies dendritic cells, and the level of binding of the antibody specific for a dendritic cell surface marker provides a measure of dendritic cell function.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein said surface marker indicative of dendritic cell activation is selected from the group consisting of CD25, CD40, CD80, CD83, CD86, CMRF-441 CMRF-56, and HLA-DQ.

19. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein said dendritic cell activator is selected from the group consisting of lipopolysaccharide (LPS), phorbol 12-myristate 13 acetate plus ionomycin (PMA+I) and a CD40-crosslinker.

20. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein said dendritic cell activator is LPS.

21. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein said dendritic cell activator is PMA+I.

22. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein said dendritic cell activator is a CD40 crosslinker.

23. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein at least one of said plurality of dendritic cell distinguishing antibodies is specific for a non-dendritic cell lineage.

24. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein each of said nondendritic cell lineage-specific antibodies is specific for an antigen selected from the group consisting of CD3, CD14, CD16, CD19, CD20, and CD56.

25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said plurality of dendritic cell distinguishing antibodies are collectively specific for CD3, CD14, CD16, CD19, CD20 and CD56.

26. (new) The method of claim 25, wherein all of said nondendritic cell lineage-specific antibodies are conjugated to an identical fluorophore.

27. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein said fluorophore is fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC).

28. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein said plurality of dendritic cell-distinguishing antibodies includes an antibody specific for HLA-DR.

29. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein said plurality of dendritic cell-distinguishing antibodies includes an antibody specific for CD4.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, <u>further comprising adding to said sample in step (b) a dendritic cell subsetting antibody,</u> wherein said dendritic cell subsetting antibody is selected from the group consisting of antibodies specific for

CD11c and antibodies specific for CD123, and, in step (c), flow cytometrically assaying said sample for the binding of said antibody specific for said dendritic cell surface activation marker by at least one distinguishable dendritic cell subset, wherein the binding of the dendritic cell subsetting antibody identifies at least one dendritic cell subset.

31. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein said dendritic cell subsetting antibody is specific for CD11c.

32. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein said dendritic cell subsetting antibody is specific for CD123.